NEBRASKA
WEATHER & CROPS

For Week Ending May 17, 1998

NASS NEBRASKA AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

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P.O. Box 81069
Lincoln, NE 68501

Phone: (402) 437-5541
Location: 273 Federal Bldg.

Internet: http://www agr.state.ne.us/agstats/index.htm
e-mail: nass-ne@nass.usda.gov

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National Weather Service

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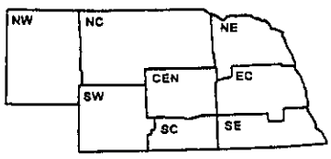

WEATHER

Temperatures for the week averaged three to seven degrees above normals. Precipitation was widespread across the State with amounts ranging from about a tenth of an inch to over two inches in the southwest.

GENERAL

Corn planting activities were nearly completed last week, as suitable conditions prevailed for much of the week, according to the Nebraska Agricultural Statistics Service. Topsoil moisture supplies continued to decline during the week as heavy winds dried soils. Precipitation totals of more than one inch were recorded in parts of the southeast on Friday; however, rainfall was limited during the week in many areas of south and central Nebraska. As of Sunday, soybean planting had passed the halfway mark and sorghum was near one-third completed. Southwestern wheat fields were in need of moisture. Other producer activities consisted of summer fallow tillage, irrigation, limited grain marketing, and working of cattle.

CROPS

Winter wheat condition improved last week and rated 1% very poor, 8% poor, 25% fair, 57% good and 9% excellent. As of Sunday, 72% of the crop had jointed, ahead of 60% last year but near 74% average. Heading was just beginning at 1%, same as last year, but behind 3% average. Condition improvements were noted in the southern Panhandle extending east through Keith and western Lincoln counties.

Corn planting moved to 95% complete ahead of both 91% last year and 68% for the five-year average. Nearly half, or 49%, of the crop was emerged, well ahead of 35% last year and 25% average. Irrigation was being used to activate herbicides and aid seed germination.

Soybean planting jumped to 52% of the crop planted, ahead of 37% last year and 19% average.

Sorghum planting progress was also ahead of normal with 29% of the crop in the ground as of Sunday, compared to 24% last year and 12% average.

Oats emergence was 95% complete, compared to 88% last year. Oats condition rated 1% very poor, 2% poor, 23% fair, 62% good and 12% excellent.

Alfalfa condition rated 2% poor, 18% fair, 65% good and 15% excellent.

LIVESTOCK, PASTURE & RANGE

Pasture and range conditions improved somewhat and rated 1% very poor, 4% poor, 24% fair, 63% good, and 8% excellent Pastures continued short in portions of the southwest, with some producers keeping livestock off pasture to give grass a chance to grow.

CROP PROGRESS AS OF MAY 17, 1998	AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS DISTRICTS								STATE	LAST WEEK	LAST YEAR	AVER-AGE
	NW	NC	NE	C	EC	SW	SC	SE				
% Corn Planted	84	91	95	98	97	92	93	98	95	83	91	68
% Corn Emerged	29	43	30	51	52	39	60	72	49	8	35	25
% Wheat Jointed	52	77	99	73	83	82	86	94	72	54	60	74
% Wheat Headed	0	1	5	0	2	0	0	7	1	n/a	1	3
% Sorghum Planted	0	49	20	47	16	40	25	32	29	9	24	12
% Soybean Planted	0	39	50	46	43	31	54	71	52	12	37	19
DAYS SUITABLE AND SOIL MOISTURE CONDITION AS OF MAY 15, 1998												
Days suitable	4 6	5 5	5 8	5.3	5 7	5 7	6.4	5 7	5.6	6 4	6.9	
Topsoil moisture - Very Short	1	5	1	0	1	16	1	0	3	4	7	
(Percent) - Short	27	14	19	34	27	42	33	18	25	36	38	
- Adequate	70	80	65	63	68	42	53	82	67	59	55	
- Surplus	2	1	15	3	4	0	13	0	5	1	0	
Subsoil moisture - Very Short	1	4	0	0	0	22	0	0	3	3	2	
(Percent) - Short	22	10	9	12	12	37	14	3	13	14	16	
- Adequate	77	85	77	83	85	41	73	80	77	80	81	
- Surplus	0	1	14	5	3	0	13	17	7	3	1	

n/a = not available

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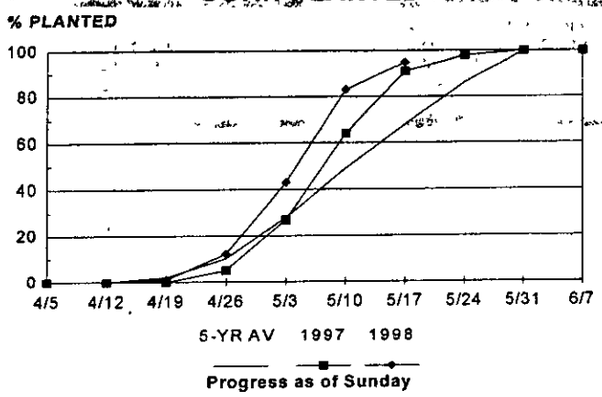
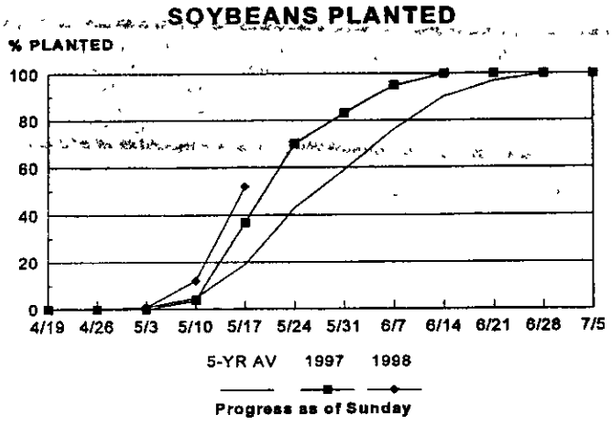
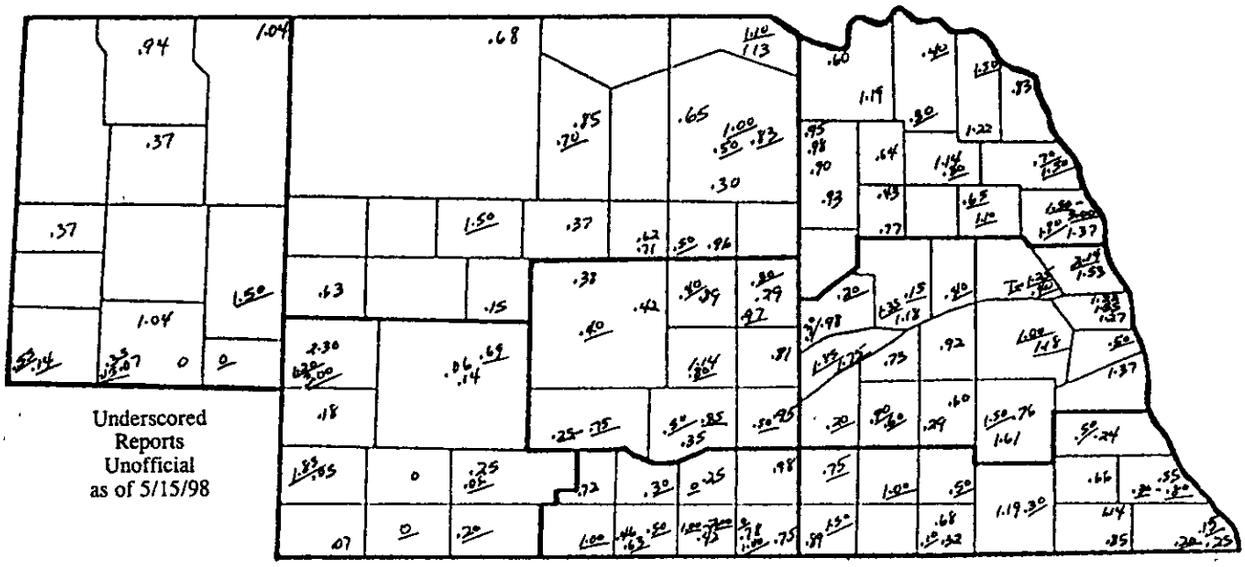
CORN PLANTED



SOYBEANS PLANTED



PRECIPITATION MAP FOR WEEK ENDING SATURDAY, MAY 16, 1998



PRECIPITATION, APRIL 1 - MAY 16, 1998

	NW	NC	NE	CEN	EC	SW	SC	SE
Total past week	52	64	92	65	1.08	.38	62	.68
Total since April 1	1 67	3 15	5 48	3 90	5.65	1 94	3.90	3.35
Normal since April 1	3 37	3.88	4 38	4 31	4 88	3.56	4 10	4.85
Total as % of normal	50%	81%	125%	90%	116%	54%	95%	69%

TEMPERATURE, PRECIPITATION, AND GROWING DEGREE DAY DATA, WEEK ENDING SATURDAY, MAY 16, 1998

	Station	Temperature				Precipitation	Growing Degree Data Since April 15		
		Extremes		Mean	Departure	Total Inches	Last Week	Current	Normal
		Max	Min						
NW	Chadron	83	38	59	---	94	---	---	---
	Scottsbluff	82	35	58	+3	37	92	275	236
	Sidney	85	36	58	---	07	113	264	238
NC	Valentine	83	43	62	+5	68	---	---	---
	Arthur	---	---	---	---	---	92	256	261
	O'Neill	---	---	---	---	---	62	228	278
NE	Norfolk	88	48	66	+6	43	---	---	---
	Sioux City	87	47	67	+6	83	---	---	---
	Concord	---	---	---	---	---	19	222	282
	Elgin	---	---	---	---	---	46	223	279
	West Point	---	---	---	---	---	28	238	291
CEN	Grand Island	86	44	66	+6	95	74	263	292
	Ord	85	43	64	---	89	65	248	286
	Kearney	---	---	---	---	---	99	285	291
EC	Lincoln	86	49	67	+6	76	45	265	307
	Omaha	83	53	68	+7	1 55	---	---	---
	Central City	---	---	---	---	---	65	267	291
	Mead	---	---	---	---	---	38	268	301
SW	Imperial	90	40	63	---	05	---	---	---
	North Platte	88	37	60	+3	14	106	297	271
	Curtis	---	---	---	---	---	107	297	285
SC	Holdrege	---	---	---	---	---	98	292	291
	Red Cloud	---	---	---	---	---	70	292	292
SE	Beatrice	---	---	---	---	---	59	270	307
	Clay Center	---	---	---	---	---	74	277	292

Growing Degree Days (GDD) are used to measure the length of time required for a crop to reach maturity. The formula used to calculate GDD is: Max temp. + min temp divided by 2 minus 50 = GDD. For example, if the average temperature for a day = 70 degrees, the GDD = 20 for that day. GDD are calculated for each day and accumulated from April 15.

Growing Degree Day data is furnished by the Department of Agricultural Meteorology, Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources, The University of Nebraska-Lincoln